

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the following remarks and amendments.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT Publication WO 02/052071 (Haynes '071) in view of U.S. Patent 6,365,088 (Knight '088). Claims 18-27 stand withdrawn from consideration as being directed to the non-elected invention.

Applicants have amended claims 2, 7, and 8 to correct typographical mistakes and canceled claims 18-27, reserving the right to continue prosecution of these claims in a divisional application. Claims 1-17 remain pending in the present Application.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly recite an embodiment of the present invention over the cited references. As amended, claim 1 recites a process for forming a nonwoven web. The process comprises providing a source of fibers and subjecting the fibers to an electrostatic charge by passing the fibers through an electrostatic unit having a first side and a second side opposed to each other. The method further comprises alternating the electrostatic charge from the first side to the second side and back to the first side. The specification provides an enabling disclosure for this amendment in Figure 3 and numbered paragraphs [0036] through [0040] of published application 2005/0087288.

Applicants respectfully assert that amended claim 1 obviates the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 1-17 in view of Haynes '071 and Knight '088. Specifically, neither Haynes '071 nor Knight '088 disclose or teach alternating the electrostatic charge from the first side to the second side and back to the first side of the electrostatic

unit as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 1-17 in view of Haynes '071 and Knight '088.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in complete condition for allowance, and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain after consideration of this amendment, then Examiner An is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at her convenience.

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Respectfully submitted,



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